

STRIKING BAATIL

"In reality, We (Allah) strike baatil (falsehood) with the Haq. It then smashes out the brains of baatil. And, lo, it (baatil) suddenly disappears." (Qur'aan)

Al-Haq

BULLETIN No. 25

THE BAND OF HAQ

"There will ever remain a band from my Ummah fighting on the Haq until the Day of Qiyaamah. Those who oppose them and those who do not aid them, will not be able to harm them." (Hadith)

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IRAQ AND THE MUSLIM WORLD IN THE LIGHT OF THE SHARIAH

"All Muslims are like a single body. When the eye pains the whole body is concerned, and when the head pains, the whole body pains."

(Rasulullah—sallallahu alayhi wasallam)

There is a special niche in the hearts of Muslims, the world over, for Iraq. Baghdad was the capital of the Islamic Empire for many centuries during the glorious *Khilaafat of Banu Abbaas*. Muslims cannot remain detached and unconcerned observers of the brutality being enacted in Iraq by the kuffaar. While the Qur'aan and the Sunnah teach us that whatever happens anywhere in creation is by the direct intervention and command of Allah Ta'ala, we human beings with finite minds, limited vision and constrained to go by the law of cause and effect will necessarily view with abhorrence and dismay the barbarity which the western kuffaar have unleashed on the people, mainly civilian men, women and children, of that luckless Muslim land.

DIVINE DECREE

Although the urge is great to condemn and revile the kuffaar—the agents of Shaitaan – it is a futile exercise devoid of any benefit for Muslims. Reviling the kuffaar—America, Britain and their camp-followers—will not benefit Muslims in any way. Not a leaf in creation can stir without Allah's command. Not an atom moves but by the direct command and intervention of Allah Azza Wa Jal. The manifestation of Allah's Attributes is conspicuous in His creation. The Qur'aan states:

"By Him are the keys of the Unseen. No one knows it, but He. He knows what is on the land and in the ocean. Not a leaf drops (from a tree), but He is aware thereof. There is not a seed in the darkness of the earth nor anything dry or moist, but it is (recorded) in the Clear Book."

Whatever is transpiring today in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine and elsewhere in creation is the Divine Decree which no one can thwart. In the words of the Qur'aan Majeed it is an event decreed by Him:

"And, it was a Promise which just had to happen."

It had to happen because so was it commanded by Allah Ta'ala.

However, we mortals here on earth are commanded to utilize our intelligence and to take lesson from our surroundings and the events

which occur. In relation to us, the Divine Decree too has a cause. It is for us to fathom the cause of the catastrophe which has struck in Iraq and in the other lands of Islam which are being pillaged and plundered by kuffaar brutality and barbarity right at this moment.

THE CAUSE

The political situation in the Muslim World is miserable. But, the scenario particularly in Iraq and Palestine, is appalling. The suffering and humiliation are total. Once the powerful ruler of the world when it was the seat of the Islamic Empire, today Iraq is the scum of mankind. Similar is the condition of Palestine. What is the cause for the fall of a nation from its pedestal of glory into the gutters of impotency and humiliation? What can cause and what did cause the Muslim nation to grovel in abject disgrace at the feet of the kuffaar? The following Qur'aanic aayat succinctly states the cause for the decline and fall of a nation—a Muslim nation in particular:

"Verily, Allah does not change the condition of a people until they (themselves) change what is in them (their own condition)."

Presenting the *tafseer* of this aayat, Hadhrat

"Verily, the (Bounties) which are by Allah, can be obtained only by obedience to Him."

Abdullah Ibn Abbaas (radhiyallahu anhu), the eminent Sahaabi and Chief of the Mufas-sireen, states:

"Verily, Allah will not change the peace and prosperity of a nation as long as they themselves do not change their condition of shukr." (Tanweerul Miqbaas)

All the *Tafaaseer* (Kutub of Tafseer) explain the aayat to mean: Allah will not change the peaceful and prosperous condition of a nation as long as they themselves do not change their state of piety, virtue, gratitude and obedience to Allah Ta'ala. When a community destroys its own goodness, i.e. moral and spiritual goodness, and supplants it with ingratitude, flagrant violation of the Shariah and immorality, then Allah Ta'ala snatches away the bounties of peace, prosperity, safety and political power which He had bestowed to them.

A nation's moral degeneration culminates in the elimination of the bounties of Allah Ta'ala and in humiliation. The humiliation is invariably brought about by kuffaar domination which Allah Ta'ala imposes on the flagrantly disobedient and immoral people.

PUNISHMENT

Allah Ta'ala never terminates the prosperity and political power of a Muslim nation merely as a trial or test as is His Sunnah (Way) with His Auliya on whom He imposes difficulties and hardships to elevate their ranks and to grant them greater proximity to Himself. The greater the trials on the Auliya, the higher they rise in the spiritual realm. Hardships and difficulties are not punishments for them. The Ahaadith explicitly state the bounties of poverty and hardship for the Auliya of Allah Ta'ala. But for the masses there is a different Sunnah or Divine Standard.

The worldly prosperity and power of the general body of Muslimeen are dependent on their obedience to Allah Ta'ala. The greater their obedience, the greater will be their worldly, political and material power and prosperity. Making this declaration, the Qur'aan Majeed states this consequence on the tongue of Hadhrat Nabi Musaa (alayhis salaam). When the downtrodden and brutalized Bani Israaeel complained to Nabi Musaa (alayhis salaam) of the cruelty and persecution of their ruler, Fir'oun who had enslaved the entire nation, he (Nabi Musaa) said to them:

"O my People! Seek forgiveness from your Rabb. Then turn (wholeheartedly) to Him in obedience. He shall then send on you from the heaven abundant beneficial rain, and He will add power to your strength. Do not turn away (from Allah) as criminals."

"Criminals" in the context of this Qur'aanic verse is a reference to flagrant violators of Allah's Shariah and the perpetrators of immorality. This criminality eliminates the Bounties of Allah Ta'ala. The Bounties of honour, respect, political power and domination over the kuffaar can be acquired only on the basis of total disobedience and submission to the Shariah of Allah Ta'ala.

When the bond with Allah Ta'ala has been corrected and strengthened by means of adoption of the Sunnah of Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) and total submission to the Immu-

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table Shariah, then only will the *Nusrah* (Divine Aid) come to this Ummah.

THE NUSRAH

There will never be success and victory for the Ummah without *Nusrah*. And this Divine Aid which the Sahaabah and the early Muslims enjoyed is dependent on only obedience. In this regard, Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said: "Whatever is by Allah is obtainable only by obeying Him." There is absolutely no other way of success for this Ummah wallowing in disgrace and misery. Iraq, Palestine and Afghanistan are stark specimens and reflections of this disgrace which Allah Ta'ala has inflicted on the Muslimeen as a punishment for their gross and flagrant rebellion, transgression and immorality which they perpe-

trate in their insane stupor of emulation of the western kuffaar who have succeeded in achieving the greatest victory over the people of Islam—that victory is mental colonization which has been imposed on the brains and the hearts of the Muslim nation all over the world, not only in Iraq and Palestine which are right at this moment in the forefront of the kuffaar bashing and brutality. Other nations will soon follow Iraq and Palestine if the current trend of universal rebellion and shaitaanity against the Shariah and Sunnah continues.

Allah Ta'ala states very clearly in the Qur'aan Majeed: "And there is no help except from Allah, The Great, The Wise."

THE TIDE CAN TURN

"Perhaps soon your Rabb will destroy your enemies and make you rulers in the earth. Then He will watch how you conduct yourself." (Qur'aan)

Allah Ta'ala had given the Taalibaan the opportunity to rule on earth just as He mentions in the above aayat of the Qur'aan. But along with the bounty of political control, Allah Ta'ala keeps a constant watch over His servants to see how they acquit themselves. The Taalibaan did not appreciate and value this *Ni'mat* nor did they discharge the *Huqooq* (Rights) of the *Amaanah* of political power, hence Allah Ta'ala despatched His kuffaar servants to snatch away the sovereignty from the Taalibaan.

HOPE

The aforementioned Qur'aanic aayat offers much hope for the fallen Ummah. If they return to the Path—to Siraatul Mustaqeem—Allah has promised them to wipe out our enemies and propel us into the seat of the rulership of the world. No amount of conferences and emulation of the material and technological culture of the western kuffaar will avail the Ummah. Never will they be extricated from the present morass of degradation and disgrace, and from their slavery as long as their gaze is focussed on the methods

which have brought worldly success, prosperity and power to the kuffaar. Methods which are beneficial for the kuffaar are not necessarily beneficial for Muslims.

Muslims and kuffaar are at opposite poles. Haraam and Najaasat are of tremendous worldly benefit for them. On the contrary, only Halaal and Tayyib benefit Muslims. Haraam and Najaasat are filth and fatal poisons for the pure spiritual dispositions of Muslims. Hence, it is quite logical for the kuffaar to succeed in worldly goals via the avenues of Haraam and Najaasat. But for Muslims who imitate the kuffaar in their ways of Haraam and Najaasat, there is only failure, disgrace and defeat. We are witnessing this phenomenon all around us, all over the world, in every Muslim country.

Ponder! Reflect on the aayaat of the Qur'aan and the secret of our victory will open up. The mystery will be unravelled. But, the Qur'aan says:

"Only people of intelligence take lesson."

JUST LIKE THE KUFFAAR

IRAQ is bleeding profusely. A Muslim nation has been dismantled, humiliated and pulverized by the western kuffaar. The entire World of the Ummah looks on as idle, quiescent and even collaborating observers—i.e. all the armies of all the Muslim lands are collaborating either directly or indirectly with the kuffaar in the decimation of Iraq and Palestine. When Mr. Bush cries 'terrorists', the Muslim rulers and their armies all cry 'terrorists' and like miserable dogs feasting on carrion aid and abet the process of destroying entire nations of Islam and their lands.

CONSEQUENCE

But we should not forget that the conflagration which is consuming Iraq is the direct consequence of the evil lifestyle and the flagrant transgression of the Iraqi Muslims. And, that goes for Palestine as well. They all have abandoned Islam. The Shariah has no meaning in the daily lives of the masses in these lands. The countries are overridden with vice and immorality. During the first so-called Gulf War, more than a decade ago, Mr. Saddam Husain closed down more than a thousand brothels/strip-tease night clubs and the like, in only Baghdad. Saddam's action

was not a response to the call of the Qur'aan and Sunnah. Other worldly considerations prompted this move. The closure of the 1000 brothels was not a crackdown on immorality. Thousands of other dens of vices continued to operate right until the American invasion.

Brothels are not the only acts of transgression. The entire country is a region infested with immorality. The people have the external appearance of kuffaar, and their hearts are like the hearts of the kuffaar. There is no semblance of Islam in them. Muslims in other countries are not trailing far behind Iraq. We should make dua that Allah Ta'ala intervenes to steer this lost and ruined Ummah and its lands from the cauldron of destruction and humiliation in which Iraq and Palestine are boiling.

REJECTION

The vices of the people are not restricted to bestial acts of immorality of the *nafs*. The greatest crime of Muslims—worse than their immoral western-aped lifestyle—is their rejection of the Shariah and their mockery of the Sunnah of Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam). Not only do Muslims in this age indulge in flagrant sin and disobedi-

ence, they expel Imaan from their hearts by denying the Shariah of Allah Ta'ala. They justify all their western-inherited evils and kufr by denying the Qur'aan and the Sunnah with their utterly baseless and fallacious misinterpretations spawned by their western educational systems.

The Muslims of Iraq and Palestine have become rebels unto Allah Ta'ala, hence He is afflicting them with this terrible punishment in the form of kuffaar domination, cruelty and brutality. When Muslims abandon the Deen, then according to Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam), the time will dawn when Allah Ta'ala will manifest His Wrath in the form of the domination of the kuffaar over the Muslims. At such a juncture, the Hadith says that the kuffaar will show no respect for our elders nor any mercy for our little ones. Our 'pious' people will supplicate for Allah's aid, but this aid will be denied. Then nothing helps. Allah Ta'ala confirming this says in the Qur'aan Majeed:

"And, if He withholds His aid from you, then who is there to help you?"

THEIR PLOTS ARE OF NO AVAIL

Allah Ta'ala says in the Qur'aan-e-Kareem:

"And, if they (the kuffaar) scheme to be treacherous with you, then (know) that verily Allah is sufficient for you (O Muhammad!) It is He Who has aided you with His Aid and with the Mu'mineen."

The conspiracies of the kuffaar cannot harm the Muslimeen. If anyone doubts or refutes this claim, he has the assurance of the Qur'aan to contend with. A careful reciter of the Qur'aan Majeed will understand the Divine Theme which permeates the entire Qur'aan Shareef—the Mu'mineen should have complete trust in Allah Ta'ala and resign their affairs to Him Alone.

This trust and resignation to the Divine Will do not impart the lesson of indolence and carelessness. This aayat has to be recited and understood in conjunction with the total *ta'leem* of the Qur'aan and Sunnah. Muslims have to firstly—as an essential pre-requisite become Muslims in the meaning of the Qur'aan and Sunnah, then resign themselves to Allah Ta'ala. They should not embark on any voyage nor take any direction which conflicts with the Shariah of the Qur'aan regardless of the seemingly overwhelming forces aligned against them. Allah Ta'ala will bring to nought the plots and conspiracies of the kuffaar.

THEIR PLANNING

The planning and plotting of the kuffaar invariably overlook the spiritual dimension. Since they lack true belief in Allah Ta'ala and they have absolutely no understanding of *Taqdir*, they plan and conspire within the limits of their finite and worldly understanding. It is for this reason that they always find their long term plots violently swing out of gear and veer off their plotted course. They cannot foresee the effects of Divine Intervention. For example, they plan and plot to install a kufr government in an Islamic land. This plot is an elabo-

rate long term conspiracy to totally convert the Muslim population into serfs and followers of the colonial power. It engages many programs and agencies to give effect to the goals of the plot. But something quite unexpectedly happens—the Decree of Allah—which entirely upsets and neutralizes their scheme. They are then constrained to go back to the boardroom to hatch another plot. But the result is always the same.

The kuffaar never will understand this mystery nor overcome it because for them the Divine Decree is everlasting damnation and doom.

THROWN TO THE KUFFAAR ENEMY

Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said:

"He who searches for the Pleasure of Allah, and (in this pursuit) he courts the wrath of the people, Allah suffices for him (in warding off) the difficulties which the people cause. And, he who searches for the pleasure of the people, and (in this pursuit) courts the Wrath of Allah, Allah casts him to the people."

Since its so-called independence from colonial rule, Iraq had always courted the Wrath of Allah Ta'ala. It sought to establish itself and assert its imagined power and influence in the region at times with its pact with the vile communist U.S.S.R., and at times with the western nations, the U.S.A. in particular. It danced to their tunes and executed the dirty work of the kuffaar, notably in its murderous onslaught against Iran at the behest of America. Iraq is guilty of spilling the blood of tens of thousands of Muslims. It is guilty of having abandoned the Deen. It is guilty of the worst forms of immorality. Such a nation cannot escape Divine Wrath. Lest it be forgotten, it is necessary to remind, that other Muslim lands and peoples are following in the path which has led to the destruction of Iraq and Palestine. They should become alert and take lesson and understand that the only remedy and succour is to turn to Allah Ta'ala as the Qur'aan commands:

"Seek the aid of Allah and have patience. Verily, the earth belongs to Allah. He bestows it (i.e. its dominion and sovereignty) to whomever of His servants He wishes. And the ultimate success is for the Muttaqeen."

If only Muslims can understand what exactly Allah Ta'ala says in this aayat, all their problems will be solved. A proper understanding of the Message of this aayat and implementing its commands will restore Muslims to their former pinnacle of glory. But the direction which the Ummah has plotted for itself in this age does not allow scope for hope of our redemption.

ASCENDANCY

In this aayat, Allah Ta'ala emphasises that only He owns the universe and that only He has the power of bestowing control of the lands to whomever He wishes. It is not the military prowess, the nuclear power and the technology of America and the other kuffaar which have given them their ascendancy and control over the lands of Islam. Allah Ta'ala makes it abundantly clear that only He is the Sovereign who owns the entire earth and it is only He who apportions political power and control to whomever He wills. Stating this fact with greater clarity, the Qur'aan Majeed says:

"O Sovereign of the land (i.e. the entire earth)! You grant sovereignty (political control and domination) to whomever You desire, and you snatch away sovereignty from whomever You desire."

It is expected that Mu'mineen who have some degree of Imaani and spiritual health will understand what exactly Allah Ta'ala is saying in these verses. Those who understand the Qur'aan will also understand that the cause of the downfall and ruin of Iraq is not the superiority of America's military and airforce. Allah Ta'ala is simply allowing them this degree of domination over the Muslims in order to punish us for our gross rebellion against His Shariah. There is no other cause whatsoever.

It is fully within the power and capability of Allah Ta'ala to cause the collapse of America or any other power overnight. The U.S.S.R collapsed, and no one, not even America with its huge sophisticated espionage apparatus had the flimsiest notion of the imminent disintegration of that world super power. Tomorrow it will be the turn of America to follow in the footsteps of collapse. This collapse of the enemy can be brought into materialization simply by the *islaah* (moral reformation and spiritual progress) of the Ummah. Technological progress and nuclear power cannot vanquish a nation which has mounted the lofty pedestal of Divine Proximity.

THE SHARIAH

The avenue for the attainment of Divine Proximity is moral reformation and spiritual progress via the avenue of the Shariah and Sunnah. In the wake of the achievement of the lofty spiritual goal for which Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) was sent to earth, will come the political superiority and the Empire of Islam. There is no other way for this Ummah. Hence Hadhrat Umar (radhiyallahu anhu), the Second Khalifah, said:

"We are a nation whom Allah has elevated with Islam."

The ingredients for our success and victory are: Istighfaar (Seeking forgiveness), Taa-at (Obedience to the Shariah and Sunnah), and Thikrullaah in abundance. Allah Ta'ala says in the Qur'aan:

"O People of Imaan! When you meet the army (of the kuffaar), then be firm and make the thikr of Allah in abundance so that you may be victorious."

The Qur'aan attributes our success, prosperity, power and victory over the kuffaar to obedience and thikrullaah, not to any material or worldly factor. Inferiority in any worldly sphere is never the cause of failure and defeat for Muslims.

OUR ERROR

Since Muslims have drifted wide off from the course of Siraatul Mustaqeem, and have allowed themselves to become assimilated into the evil and immoral cults of westernism, they too (i.e. the Muslims) have become blind and deaf to the proclamations of the Qur'aan. While we make *Tilaawat* of the Qur'aan and while the Ulama explain the Message of the Qur'aan and Sunnah, our fossilized brains are incapable of understanding what exactly Allah Ta'ala is pro-

claiming to us when He says: *"If you have fear for Allah and have Sabr, then never ever can their plots harm you."* (Qur'aan)

When this is Allah's assurance, why is the gaze of the Ummah focussed in a different direction—the direction of the kuffaar? Flagrant transgression and abandonment of the Sunnah have blinded our spiritual vision, hence the inability of Muslims to understand their own power-base and the inherent spiritual power which they only have to unlock with *Taa-at* (obedience) and *Ibaadat* (Worship).

THEY TOO ARE THE 'SERVANTS' OF ALLAH

Ignorant people query the designation of 'servants of Allah' with which the kuffaar who are decimating and destroying Muslims and their lands is described. Undoubtedly, these kuffaar like all other forces in creation, are all the 'servants' of Allah, albeit 'servants' of a different kind. The pious Mu'mineen are obedient slaves of Allah Ta'ala. They offer obedience and obeisance to Allah Ta'ala out of their own free will. On the otherhand, the kuffaar are harnessed into the service of Allah Ta'ala by His Will and imposed Command in the same way as the shayaateen and rebellious jinn were the servants of Hadhrat Nabi Sulaiman (alayhis salaam). In spite of their kufr and rebellion, they were harnessed into the service of Hadhrat Sulaiman (alayhis salaam). Prisoners become the servants of their captors. In this manner the brutal kuffaar become the servants of Allah Ta'ala and the manifestation of His Athaab (Punishment) is in the pillage and plunder perpetrated by them.

ATHAAB

Their being a manifestation of Divine Punishment on Muslims is stated in the following verses of the Qur'aan:

"We predicted to Bani Israaeel in the Kitaab (Tauraah or a Scripture before the Tauraah): 'Verily, you will spread mischief (and corruption) in the land on two occasions, and you will commit great oppression.'" (Aayat 4, Bani Israaeel)

In this aayat Allah Ta'ala informs Bani Israaeel that there will be two occasions when they would embark on corrup-

tion and oppression on earth. Their evil and transgression would then culminate in the *Athaab* of Allah Ta'ala. Thus, the Qur'aan mentioning these two occasions states:

"And when there came the first of the two (predicted) promises, We sent against you (O Bani Israaeel!) such of our servants who were most powerful in warfare. Thus they penetrated into the midst of (your) cities. And that was a promised decree (of Allah)." (Aayat 5, Bani Israaeel)

"Then arrived the second promise (which Allah Ta'ala decreed) so that they (the kuffaar servants of Allah) could disfigure your faces and so that they could penetrate the Masjid (i.e. Masjidul Aqsa) just as they had penetrated it the first time. And (Allah allowed them to perpetrate this destruction) so that they (the kuffaar) could utterly destroy whatever they overran." (Aayat 6 Bani Israaeel)

History is repeating itself, over and over again. This is confirmed by these two verses of the Qur'aan Majeed. In these verses, Allah Ta'ala informs the Ummat-e-Muslimah about the rebellion of Bani Israaeel and the Punishment in which their transgression had culminated. When Bani Israaeel, the Muslim Ummah of the time, had transgressed all bounds of immorality and transgression, Allah Ta'ala sent powerful kuffaar against them. The enemies utterly destroyed Bani Israaeel, Masjidul Aqsa and their lands.

THIKRULLAAH

According to the Qur'aan, a vital requirement for success on the battlefield is Thikrullah in abundance. The Qur'aan-e-Kareem urges Muslim fighters: *"O People of Imaan! When you meet the enemy (in battle), then be firm and make the thikr of Allah in abundance so that you be victorious."*

TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY

Islamically speaking, the most weird argument which Muslims advance for the Ummah's failure on the battlefield against the kuffaar is the technological superiority of the western kuffaar. America's military 'might', its nuclear capability and its supposedly invincible air-force are said to be the causes of the capitulation of the Taalibaan and the fall of Iraq. This argument in the light of the pronouncements of the Qur'aan Majeed is utterly fallacious. It is devoid of substance. Success and victory of the Muslim nation were never the consequences of military superiority.

The very same lawless Arabs who had led a barbaric life prior to the advent of Islam had become the Standard Bearers of the glorious Flag of Islam which they planted on the hilltops of the world wherever they went. The mightiest armies of the then super-powers were humbled and lay prostrate at the feet of the Sahaabah who were the very men who a few years earlier in their time of *Jaahiliyyah* were entirely lost and absorbed in immorality, barbarism and inter-tribal warfare.

In fact, so lawless and rebellious were these Arabs that no power of the time ventured to subdue them. The outside world powers were content to leave them within the confines of the Arabian Peninsula to squander their energy in their own evil pursuits which ensured

their incremental moral retrogression and political stagnation. As long as they remained in the vortex of kufr and immorality, they lacked in entirety in spiritual vision. They thus remained grounded in the desert sands of Arabia.

ISLAM

But when Islam came to these restless Sons of the Arabian Desert, their spiritual vision opened up and became adorned with the celestial light of the *Roohaani* (Spiritual) world. As a direct consequence of the opening up of the hearts of their *Baatin* (Soul), they were constrained by the Fire of Imaan to break out from the desert frontiers of the Arabian Peninsula which could no longer contain their spirits kindled with the power of Imaan. Soon the call of *Allaahu Akbar* and the Call of Tauheed —*Lailaha illallaa*—reverberated throughout the world.

An ill-equipped army of 12,000 Sahaabah confronted and decisively defeated a superior and regular army of more than a quarter million kuffaar soldiers. This is not an isolated example. The history of the rise of Islam and its domination testify to the wildfire spread of the Sahaabah and the ascendancy and domination of the rule of Islam over the lands of the kuffaar.

Never were these fruits gained as a result of numerical or military

superiority. With regard to the weakness of the then Ummah, the Qur'aan Majeed says:

"Verily, Allah aided you at Badr when you were a disgraceful lot (in the eyes of the kuffaar)."

Despised and physically emaciated—numerically outnumbered and militarily having no comparison with the opposing kuffaar forces—Allah Ta'ala bestowed a resounding victory to the tiny band of Sahaabah, and the history of the world began to be written in a new light.

TECHNOLOGY

Thus, the argument of technological inferiority is a colossal deception of shaitaan. It is with this deception that shaitaan sustains the process of Muslim emulation of people wallowing in physical and spiritual *najaasat* and *janaabat*. The power-base of the Muslimeen is entirely something else. It is *Taqwa*—the Fear of Allah. It is *Taqwa* and the Sunnah which constitute the bedrock of our success and power, and it is *Taqwa* which attracts even the kuffaar to the *Haqqaniyat* (Truth) of Islam which has come for all mankind. It is therefore not lawful for Muslims to commit deeds which will alienate the kuffaar from Islam. Every Muslim has to be an ambassador of Islam—a practical *Muballigh*.

IMAAN

All our ancestors were kuffaar, The Sahaabah transformed our kuffaar ancestors and presented the treasure of Imaan and Islam to them. How did they accomplish the wonderful feat of converting entire nations to Islam in the shortest space of time? Definitely

not at the point of the sword as the kuffaar enemies allege. The seat of Imaan is the heart. While the sword can convert overtly the tongue, it cannot make the slightest inroad into the heart. On the contrary, it creates a greater aversion for those who wield the sword. But Islam came to remain with the conquered kuffaar people, and these very conquered people became the ambassadors and champions and Mujaahideen of Islam the day after their conversion to Islam.

WEAKNESS

The Qur'aan calls your attention, O Mu'mineen! It calls on you to reflect and understand where your power comes from: Says Allah Azza Wa Jal, in aayat 26 of Surah Anfaal:

"And (O Mu'mineen!) remember when you were numerically insignificant (and militarily hopelessly inadequate); you were despised weaklings in the land. You feared that the people (your kuffaar enemies) would snatch (and devour you). Then (Lo!) He (Allah) gave you refuge and aided you with His Help, and He granted you Tayyibaat (halaal and wholesome) food so that you may be grateful."

The gratitude which Rabbul Izat—Allah Azza Wa Jal—demands from us weaklings is adoption of the Sunnah, acceptance of the Immutable Shariah and engrossment in perpetual Thikrullaah. Then will open up the avenues of Victory, for He has created the Mu'mineen for Victory in this world and everlasting success (*falaah*) in the Akhirah.

MUCK

Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said that a time will dawn when Muslims will become like the scum and muck which floodwaters bring down. The kuffaar will plunder and pillage them. Literally they will be devoured and ruined by the kuffaar. He attributed this disgraceful state of degeneration of Muslims to the twin diseases of love of the world and fear for death. These diseases are the consequences of transgression and emulation of the kuffaar.

The plight of Iraq and Palestine is vividly encapsulated in the aforementioned aayaat and Hadith of Nabi-e-Kareem (sallallahu alayhi wasallam). Muslims should understand and accede to this reality—that the disaster which has befallen Iraq and Palestine in the form of the American invasion and brutality is the punishment of Allah Ta'ala for

the wanton transgression and abandonment of the Sunnah by the peoples of these Muslim lands. Iraq and Palestine are not singled out nor are they exceptions apart from the rest of the Muslim World. They are being mentioned and discussed here because they are currently in the frontline of Allah's Wrath and Punishment. The other Muslim countries are not lagging far behind in the path of destruction they have chosen.

Can anyone rationally deny that Muslims of the world have become scum and muck for the kuffaar of the world, the western world in particular? That Bush and his cronies in his coalition come within the scope of the meaning of 'Our servants' chosen for inflicting the Divine Punishment, cannot be denied by intelligent Muslims whose hearts pain for the suffering of the Muslim people of Iraq and Palestine. But this suffering should not obscure Islamic realities from us nor prevent us from intelligently diagnosing the causes of our problems.

If Muslims in Iraq, Palestine and elsewhere choose deliberate blindness and fail to understand what is happening to them, and why it is happening, then obviously, there is no cure for their chronic disease of self-inflicted spiritual blindness. The suffering and disgrace will continue unabated. Only if Muslims can understand their disease of flagrant transgression against Allah's Shariah and then reform themselves in accordance with the Qur'aanic and Sunnah prescriptions, then they have Allah's assurances proclaimed in the following aayat: "Perhaps, soon will your Rabb destroy your enemy and install you as the rulers of the earth. Then He will watch how you acquit yourselves." (Aayat 129, A'raaf)

THE KUFFAAR BRUTALITY — ALLAH'S DECREE

"And, they (the kuffaar) will invade your cities.....penetrate the Masjid.....disfigure your faces....and utterly destroy all and everything they overrun....." Qur'aan, Surah Bani Israaeel)

THE QUR'AAN'S MESSAGE

The Qur'aan sends the following Message to the Fighters of Iraq: "Verily, Allah loves those who fight in His Path in battle formation as if they are one powerful wall of steel."

If only our fighting brethren in Iraq can understand the Message of the Qur'aan to reform, to repent, to obey and to truly worship Allah Ta'ala, they will see that no power on earth can vanquish them. All forces in creation are the slaves of Allah Azza Wa Jal. The American aggression is a temporary phase which will end in the defeat and downfall of the enemy. Allah's Decree must come to pass. No one can thwart the Divine Command.

TORTURE, BRUTALITY AND COWARDICE — THE FEATURES OF THE KUFFAAR

Cowardice is the natural attribute of the kuffaar. The torture and brutality of the kuffaar are commensurate with their cowardice. The greater their cowardice, the greater the magnitude of their brutality and oppression. The American performance in Iraq testifies to the cowardice, weakness and fear to the degree of paranoia.

Unlike the Muslims of Iraq who inspire of all their moral and spiritual weaknesses are fighters, the American soldier cannot fight in battle. The recent street-fighting is ample evidence for the fear, weakness and cowardice of the American and other kuffaar forces of invasion and oppression.

CEASE-FIRE

The fact that America has appealed to fundamentalist mullahs and the clergy in Iraq to broker a cease-fire with genuine fighters which the kuffaar brand as 'terrorists', provides great insight of the hell in which America and its coalition have become embroiled in Iraq. It is clear that the kuffaar forces despite their massive fire-power and huge build-up of forces and armour of the most sophisticated kind, cannot fight the Iraqi Muslims in hand-to-hand street-fighting in which the Muslims in Iraq excel.

THE STREETS

The sudden upsurge in the fighting in recent weeks has demonstrated that the American forces have failed to secure the populated areas. The streets are in the control of the Iraqi Mujahideen. The kuffaar forces are on the outskirts, hiding behind massive barriers, fortresses, bases and in aircraft in the skies.

THE QUR'AN

The Qur'aan Majeed very forcefully assures Muslims that the kuffaar are not fighters. They lack valour and chivalry. They only know how to brutalize civilians. They pummel populated areas of civilians from the sky and from long distances in the hope of demoralizing the entire population in the desperate bid to compel the fighters to lay down their arms or to agree to a ceasefire. In other words, the American forces with their coalition cronies are holding the civilian population in Iraq hostage, yet they crow hysterically when the fighters take a few of their men hostage. They overlook the fact that they are holding the entire civilian population hostage and brutalize them from their helicopter gunships and with long range guns and tank-fire.

In this cowardly and brutal manner they are holding the entire Iraq hostage to enable them to drain the oil wealth of that unfortunate land.

About their cowardice, fear and lack of fighting prowess despite their massive superiority in military terms, the Qur'aan says:

"They (the kuffaar) cannot fight you (O Muslims!) inspire of their coalition, except (while they are) in heavily fortified (military) garisons or from behind (massive) barricades. You (O Muslims!) think that their coalition is united (but in reality), their hearts are apart. That is because they are people who lack intelligence." (Ayat 14 Surah Hashr)

The Glorious Qur'aan made this declaration more than fourteen centuries ago. It holds true to this day and will remain the truth eternally. Consider the situation in Iraq. The American army cannot venture into the populated areas because of their mortal fear for combat and street-fighting. In such street-fighting, ten Muslims are adequate for a force of a 100 fully equipped, highly trained kuffaar soldiers. The kuffaar are fully cognizant of this fact and of the fighting ability of the Muslim fighters. This is true even today while the Muslims are laying prostrate in abject weakness and degeneration. But the spark of iman inspire of its dullness, is keeping the Muslims repeatedly bobbing up and surfacing to give battle.

THREE THINGS

The abovementioned Qur'aanic ayat mentions three very important features of the kuffaar forces:

- (1) The combined alliance of the kuffaar cannot fight Muslims in combat
- (2) They can fight only from fortified bases or from behind massive barricades.
- (3) Their coalition and unity are superficial. They harbour malice for one another.

All three features mentioned here are displayed by the Americans and its coalition in Iraq. The combined American coalition is unable to fight the Mujahideen in Iraq. The plight of America has worsened with the Shah militias joining the Sunnis in the attacks against the cowardly kuffaar forces.

Their sophisticated technological power, their massive airforce and military and the united strength of the forces of the coalition have miserably failed to quell the resistance of the Iraqi Muslims. The Americans have therefore called for a ceasefire. In fact, they have unilaterally declared a ceasefire even without having initiated peace or ceasefire talks. This is the meaning of the first portion of the ayat:

"They cannot fight you despite their coalition..."

BASES, BARRICADES

The second thing mentioned in the ayat is that they can retaliate only from the safety of fortified bases and massive barricades. The western media report that the Iraqi Mujahideen are holding and controlling the city centres and populated areas while the Americans with their coalition forces are outside the cities in their bases. They fire their heavy guns from the safety of their bases. In this cowardly way they kill thousands of Muslim civilians indiscriminately. There is absolutely no difference between the Madrid bombers and the Americans who are murderously and indiscriminately mowing down civilians—women and children—Mosques and hospitals—because they are unable to fight the Iraqi fighters in the street.

From the safety of their tanks stationed at great distances, they fire on the civilian population. They then seek to placate the world with false stories of directing their fire against 'terrorists' and 'insurgents'. Their helicopter gunships, their tanks and their long range canons do not and cannot discriminate and single out fighters in heavily populated areas. The killing from long distances and from the sky is wanton murder, reckless brutality and savagery enacted on a massive scale by cowards who proclaim themselves to be the upholders of the mirage they call 'human rights'. Before they speak of 'human rights', they should meditate on Guantanamo Bay.

As for the barricades mentioned in the ayat, even the western media comment with astonishment at the massive and miles of concrete barricades the Americans have erected and are still constructing in Iraq. They live in fear every minute of their lives behind massive concrete walls and barricades. They have converted some streets of Baghdad into forts of concrete to hide from the fighters who are ever daring in their attacks on the forces of the kuffaar coalition.

A child can be put behind a long range gun and instructed to pull the trigger. But to fight the Mujahideen despite their spiritual and moral weaknesses, is entirely another matter—a matter which every American soldier who will go back home—if he comes out alive from Iraq—will remember for the rest of his life and even have nightmares.

THE FIGHTERS

The Iraqi Muslim fighters are severely handicapped and are heroically fighting against tremendous

odds. The American generals confess that while the Iraqis are 'innovative' they lack entirely in sophistication. Their standard fighting gear consists of an assault rifle, sub-machine gun and rocket launchers, and they fabricate their own 'innovative' incendiary devices. With these simple weapons they are facing the might of the world's only 'super and nuclear power'—the U.S.A. which is being humbled by small bands of weak and ill-equipped Iraqi Muslim fighters.

There is no honour in pulverizing an unarmed civilian population of women and children from the air sitting in the safety of gunships and from the safety of tanks and from behind massive concrete barricades. There is no valour and no humanity in the perpetration of genocide of a civilian community from behind massive fortified barricades and sitting in the safety of the garrisons far from the arena of the actual fighting.

COALITION

How true is the Qur'aanic ayat in stating the dissension of the kuffaar alliances! This ayat fully applies to the American coalition. There is considerable disunity and dissension among the various component nations comprising the coalition which has invaded Iraq. Most people of the coalition nations are clamouring for the withdrawal of their troops from Iraq. America is desperately fighting to retain the superficial unity of its coalition of aggression. Inspite of their common hatred for Muslims, the hearts of the kuffaar are rent asunder by their own selfish motives. The one is suspicious of the agenda and motives of the other.

CONSOLATION

The weaknesses and the degenerate condition of the Muslims of Iraq have to be acknowledged. That the Iraqi Muslims have acted treacherously towards Islam, is a confirmed fact. That Islam has been practically abandoned in Iraq is undeniable. But Muslims of the world have at least this one consolation that their brothers in Iraq are heroically and valiantly fighting back. They are not offering flowers, kisses and hugs to the kuffaar soldiers of cowardice and aggression. They are fighting and giving America and its cronies hell on earth. May Allah Ta'ala open up the eyes and hearts of the Iraqi Muslims to see and understand their errors so that they can assert the true power of a Muslim—the power which generates from hearts perfected in *Roohtaniyat*.

Let us all make dua, sincerely and constantly for the success, honour and victory of the Iraqi Muslims and for all Muslims of the world.

Let us forget, the ayat beautifully fits the massive wall of fear and paranoia Israel is erecting. The Qur'aan, after all, is the eternal Word of Allah Azza Wa Jal.

SHIAHS AND THE SUNNI ATTITUDE

Now that the initially quiescent Shiah have joined in the fighting against the occupying aggressors, the question is:

"What should be the attitude of the Ahlus Sunnah?" Is it proper to unite with them to fight and expel the common enemy?

It is obvious that America will endeavour to extract maximum advantage for itself from the Shiah-Sunni differences. In its own interests, America naturally has to conspire to widen the chasm between these two groups. In this manner does America hope to consolidate its stranglehold on Iraq. As long as the two groups

are at each other's throats, there will be relative safety for the invaders.

Everyone is aware of the extremely sharp and violent differences the Ahlus Sunnah have with the Shiah. Muslims are therefore anxious to know what the *fatwa* of the Shariah is in the situation prevailing in Iraq.

THE FATWA

The Shariah's *Fatwa (Decree)* on this question is the shelving of the differences and unification in the face of the enemy. Hadhrat Maulana Ashraf Ali Thaavi (rahmatullah alayh) had explained that when a Shiah state or com-

munity is under attack by the kuffaar, it is the duty of the Sunni states to go to its aid.

The attack of the kuffaar is not directed against Shi'ism. It is an onslaught on Islam. Saddam Husain had attacked Shiah Iran with the active support of America and its cronies in the Arab World. Today that self-same America with its coalition of cronies have pulled down Saddam Husain. As far as the kuffaar are concerned it is not a question of Sunnis and Shiah. The venom is directed to Islam and the plot is to eliminate Islam whether the onslaught is on the Sunnis or the Shiah.

IN IRAQ

The Shiah revolt in Iraq was an entirely unexpected development.

The Shiah, true to form, co-operated with America in the destruction of Iraq. Throughout history they had played the role of collaborators against the Islamic Empire which was always under the sway of the Ahlus Sunnah. However, by a divine decree, the Shiah in Iraq have turned against the Americans. The revolt against America's occupying forces is now from both the Sunnis and the Shiah. Since the enemy is a common foe, both groups appear to be unified in the endeavour to oust the invaders.

In this situation, the Shariah allows co-operation with the Shiah in the bid to present a unified stand against the marauding invaders. It is not a time for differences.

BRUTALITY AND MURDER

The champions of so-called 'human rights' and the conceivers of the 'New World Order' are demonstrating in Iraq what exactly is their conception of the 'New World Order'.

"The director of Fallujah's main hospital said on Friday that about 450 people have been killed and 1000 wounded since the Marines launched Operation Vigilant Resolve five days ago."

When civilians, including women and children, in Iraq and Palestine are mur-

dered and killed indiscriminately by the enemy, such misdeeds and atrocities are within the parameters of the Geneva Convention. The perpetrators of such atrocities are not terrorists because they happen to be from the western world. In this sphere brute force and military ascendancy spell out the conception of terrorism. Non-westerners, especially if they are Muslims, become terrorists if they commit the same atrocities which are perpetrated by Bush and Blair.

RESOLUTE RESISTANCE

In spite of the overwhelming odds against them, the Iraqi fighters are offering stiff and heroic resistance against the brutal occupiers of their land. The following events illustrate the resolute resistance which compelled America to sue for 'peace' and declare a unilateral ceasefire.

- * "In a further development yesterday, US forces clashed with militiamen in a Sunni Muslim district of north-western Baghdad. Dozens of militiamen armed with rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles shot at US troops from alleyways in the Adhimiya district of the capital."
 - * "Battles in Fallujah and elsewhere in the Sunni heartlands of central Iraq have coincided with an uprising led by radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr across the south."
 - * "A spate of kidnapping has added to the turmoil in Iraq."
 - * "At least 51 US and allied soldiers were killed in this week's fighting."
 - * "At least nine people died in an attack on US fuel convoy west of Baghdad."
 - * "Battles rage in cities across Iraq after demonstrations by Sadr supporters and his private army. Clashes leave 52 Iraqis and nine Allied troops dead."
 - * "US troops use helicopter gunships against Sadr supporters as insurgency spreads, with radicals occupying Basra governor's office. US seals off Fallujah in the Sunni triangle."
 - * "6 April: Sixty six Iraqis and 20 Allied troops killed in fierce fighting with insurgents, including up to 17 Marines in Fallujah during an attempt to pacify the Sunni city."
 - * "7 April: US 250 kg bomb kills 40 in Fallujah mosque. Sadr forces step up attacks on Allied troops."
- What is of considerable significance is that when US bombs kill innocent civilians praying in Mosques, the murderers are not terrorists. But when a Muslim kills civilians, he becomes a 'terrorist'!!!*
- * A reporter writes: "Even as I am writing this, I can hear the sound of mysterious explosions in the distance. Earlier, three loud explosions had gone off in the so-called Green Zone near the CPA headquarters. Panic is just below the surface."

(Sunday Tribune 11th April 2004)

AMERICA'S CEASEFIRE

"Witnesses said fighting between US marines and guerrillas broke out in several districts of the Sunni Muslim town, despite a unilateral ceasefire declared by the Americans on Friday."

The unilateral ceasefire by the US is most significant. It is testimony for the mauling the US army has suffered in a week of fighting. It is only the fierce resistance which has compelled the unilateral ceasefire. The enemy prides itself with its policy of not negotiating with "terrorists". What has constrained them to engage 'fundamentalist' clergy and sheikhs to act as peace-brokers? The events on the battlefield in the streets of Iraq have dictated the unilateral declaration of the 'ceasefire'.

In an attempt to save face, the U.S. invaders explained: *"US forces offer the rebels in Fallujah a ceasefire to allow for peace talks after days of fighting that left hundreds of dead. Yesterday there were more clashes."* (Sunday Tribune 11th April 2004)

The reason advanced by US forces for the 'ceasefire' is a palpable falsity.

FEAR HAUNTS THEM

Fear stalks the US forces every moment of their existence in Iraq. In the beginning of the invasion after the US forces had settled in Iraq, it had appeared that they had won the day and the 'hearts' of the Iraqi people. The Sunday Times, 11th April 2004, reports:

"When order was restored a few weeks later and a semblance of normality returned, US soldiers could be seen shopping in Baghdad's supermarkets, carrying groceries in their combat helmets or logging on at internet cafes, with their M16 carbines lying on the floor."

This would be unthinkable today. Now US troops travel in convoys of Humvee and Bradley armoured personnel carriers, often guarded by Abrams tanks. Baghdad's ever-present theme tune is the throbbing beat of helicopters flying along the Tigris River, guarding the approaches to the occupation authority's headquarters in the "Green Zone".

For the first time, US troops face the twin threat of Sunni insurgents and Sadr's Shi'ite gunmen.

Rita Emad (a Christian) said: "We all hoped things would get better, that we would have peace in Iraq. But there is nothing. There is no difference between Saddam and Bush. Anybody with money is leaving Iraq."

THE WESTERN MEDIA ACKNOWLEDGES THE PLIGHT OF AMERICA IN IRAQ

The realization that it has landed in a boiling cauldron is increasingly dawning on the U.S.A. and its coalition partners. A year after its invasion, the resistance far from having been eliminated has gained momentum and American and other foreigners are increasingly being killed by the fighters

The reports and views aired by the western media are a good barometer to gauge the plight of America in Iraq and the degree of the fierce resistance of the Iraqi Muslims notwithstanding their weaknesses in every field of life

BLOODIEST

A year after the American invasion, the first week of April 2004 has seen some of the bloodiest fighting throughout Iraq. Every major city in Iraq is up in flames fighting the American and its coalition oppressors. While hundreds of civilians have been indiscriminately murdered by the occupying forces in just a week, scores of Americans have been killed by the Iraqi fighters. On the other hand, the casualties among the Iraqi fighters were comparatively speaking slight.

Since the occupying forces used helicopter gunships, tanks and long range guns from the safety of the skies and their bases, they indiscriminately mow down civilians -women and children included. In spite of the heavy odds aligned against them, the Iraqi fighters have resisted and fought valiantly. Reports from the western press appearing on this page will testify to what is happening in Iraq. Along with the suffering of the people, America has landed in hell on earth.

Truth dawns as smoke thickens

ROBERT FISK

A war founded on illusions, lies and right-wing ideology was bound to founder in blood and fire. Saddam had weapons of mass destruction. He was in contact with al-Qaeda, he was involved in the crimes against humanity of September 11, 2001. The people of Iraq would greet us with flowers and music.

There would be a democracy.

Even the pulling down of Saddam's statue was a fraud. An American military vehicle tugged the wretched thing down while only a few hundred Iraqis watched.

Freedom from Saddam's dictatorship in those early days meant freedom to loot, burn, kidnap and murder.

The mobs were followed by sinister squads who systematically destroyed every archive and government ministry (save the Oil and Interior which were secured by US troops), Islamic manuscripts and irreplaceable antiquities. The very cultural identity of Iraq was being annihilated.

yet, still the Iraqis were supposed to rejoice in their "liberation". The occupying power sneered at reports that women were being kidnapped and violated—in fact, the abduc-

tions of men as well as women were at the rate of 20 a day. Even this week the promises and lies fell apart, the American military spokesman was still only able to give military casualties—this when more than 200 Iraqis are reported to have been killed in the US Marine attack on Fallujah.

The occupying powers in Baghdad and their masters back in Washington said the resistance to the US presence was caused only by old regimists. Indeed, Paul Bremer, America's proconsul in Iraq, called them Baath "party remnants".

Civil war

Then Bremer called them "die hards", then "dead-enders". And as the attacks on US forces increased around Fallujah and other Sunni Muslim cities, we were told this area was the "Sunni triangle".

When the attacks against US troops continued to escalate, it was time to rewrite the chapter on post-war Iraq. "Foreign fighters", Al-Qaeda, were now in the battle, said US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld.

The US media went along with this nonsense, even though only 150 of the 8500 "security detainees" in American hands appear to be from outside Iraq.

This is just 2%.

then, as winter approached and Saddam was caught, the occupying powers and their favourite journalists began to warn of civil war, something no Iraqi has ever been heard discussing. Iraq was now to be frightened into submission.

The Shi'ites remained quiescent. They opened their mass graves and mourned those thousands tortured and executed by Saddam's butchers—and then asked why it took us 20 years to stage our humanitarian invasion.

In fact, if the occupation authorities had bothered to study the results of a conference on Iraq, held by the Centre for Arab Unity Studies in Beirut recently, they might be forced to acknowledge what they cannot admit: that their opponents are Iraqis and that this is an Iraqi insurgency.

An Iraqi academic, Suleiman Jumeili, who lives in the city of Fallujah, told how he discovered that 80% of rebels killed were Iraqi Islamist activists. Only 13% of the dead men were primarily nationalists and only 2% Baathists.

'New hope'

But we cannot accept these statistics. Because, if this is an Iraqi revolt against us, how come they aren't grateful for their liberation?

So, after the atrocities in Fallujah just over a week ago, when four US mercenaries were killed, mutilated and dragged through the

streets, General Ricardo Sanchez, sanctioned what is preposterously called "Operation Vigilant Resolve".

And now that Sadr's thousands of Shi'ite militiamen have joined in the battle against the Americans, Sanchez had to change the narrative—yet again. No longer were his enemies Saddam "remnants", or even al-Qaeda; they were now "a small (sic) group of criminals and thugs".

So the marines smashed their way into Fallujah, killing more than 200 Iraqis, including women and children, while using tank fire and helicopter gunships against gunmen in the Baghdad slums of Sadr city.

Sadr goes on the wanted list for a murder after an arrest warrant no one told us about when it was mysteriously issued months ago, and General Mark Kimmit, Sanchez's number two, told us that Sadr's military will be "destroyed".

And so the bloodbath spreads ever further across Iraq. And with each new collapse, we were told of new hope. Yesterday Sanchez was still talking about "progress" in Fallujah and how "a new dawn is approaching". Which is exactly what US commanders were saying exactly a year ago today—when US troops drove into the Iraqi capital and when Washington boasted of victory against the Beast of Baghdad.—*The Independent*

Sunday Tribune News April 11, 2004

EVEN THE PROXY OF U.S. PROTESTS

The murderous assault from the air, distant bases and using moving fortresses (tanks) against the civilian population was intolerable to even the US installed governing council. The Sunday Tribune of 11th April, reports:

"After Iraq's bloodiest week since the invasion a year ago that toppled Saddam Hussein, the US-installed Governing Council criticised military solutions and the policy of collective punishment that has fallen on innocent civilians"

US FORCES COWER BEHIND BARRICADES

"They (the kuffaar) cannot fight you in spite of their coalition except from fortified bases or from behind massive barricades.....That is so because they are a people who lack intelligence." (Qur'aan, Surah Hashr)

The Sunday Times reports:

"The symbol of new Iraq is the concrete block: enormous blocks 4.5m high, like gigantic tombstones, are used as blast barriers around all the US-run Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) buildings. Near Saddam's old Republican Palace, miles of these blocks turn the road into a dismal concrete can-

AFGHANISTAN

A similar situation as in Iraq, prevails in Afghanistan where the American invaders have no control. The puppet Kerzai 'government' does not control even the main two cities, Kabul and Kandhar. The rest of the country is out of bounds for the Americans and their puppet government. While the western media is totally silent on the events in Afghanistan, there is

much Mujaahideen activity against the American terrorists. The former warlords are in full control of their areas. There are ongoing skirmishes. America has simply failed to 'tame' and harness in the Afghans. Occasionally a massive operation is launched with America's foot-soldiers, the Northern Alliance and with the Pakistani army.

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THE BRUTAL MASSACRE BY AMERICA- UNBIASED REPORTS BY WESTERN JOURNALISTS

(Report reproduced from Sunday times, 18th April 2004)

"Since the US offensive began, Jo Wilding has been one of the few Westerners who has braved the bullets to deliver medical supplies to the city (of Fallujah). Here she tells her disturbing tale of the bloody horror taking place there."

Trucks, oil tankers, tanks are burning on the highway east of Fallujah. A stream of boys and men goes to and from a lorry that is not burnt, stripping it bare. We turn onto the back roads through Abu Ghraib, Nuha and Ahrar singing in Arabic, past vehicles full of people with few possessions heading the other way.

Our bus is following a car with the nephew of a local sheikh and a guide who has contacts with the Mujahedin and has cleared this with them. The reason that I am on the bus is that a journalist I know turned up at my door telling me things were desperate in Fallujah. He had been bringing out children with their limbs blown off.

The US soldiers were going around telling people to leave by dusk or they would be killed, but then when people fled with whatever they could carry, they were stopped at the US military checkpoint on the edge of town and not let out, trapped, watching the sun go down.

**"armed groups
(Mujaahideen)
control the roads
we would
travel on."**

The journalist said aid vehicles and the media were being turned

away. He said there was some medical aid that needed to go in and there was a better chance of it getting there with foreigners, Westerners, to get through the US checkpoints. The rest of the way was secured with the armed groups who control the roads we would travel on.

We would take in the medical supplies, see what else we could do to help and then use the bus to bring out people who needed to leave.

"Airstrikes destroyed the town's main hospital."

We arrive in one piece. We pile the stuff in the corridor and the boxes are torn open straight away; the blankets most welcomed. It is not a hospital at all but a clinic, a private doctor's surgery treating people for free since air strikes destroyed the town's main hospital. Another has been improvised in a car garage. There is no anaesthetic. The blood bags are in a drinks fridge and the doctors warm them up under the hot tap in an unhygienic toilet.

Screaming women come in, praying, slapping their chests and faces. *Umni*, mother, one cries. I hold her until Maki, acting director of the clinic, brings me to a bed where a child of about 10 is lying with a bullet wound to the head. A smaller child is being treated for a similar injury in the next bed. A US sniper, they said, hit them and their grandmother as they left their home to flee Fallujah.

The lights go out, the fan stops and in the sudden quiet someone

holds up the flame of a cigarette lighter for the doctor to carry on operating. The electricity has been cut off for days and when the generator runs out of petrol, they just have to manage until it comes back on. Dave who is with me quickly donates his torch.

"Come", says Maki and ushers me alone into a room where an old woman has just had an abdominal bullet wound stitched up. Another wound in her leg is being dressed, the bed under her foot soaked with blood, a white flag still clutched in her hand and the same story: "I was leaving my home to go to Baghdad when I was hit by a US sniper."

Some of the town is held by US Marines, other parts by local fighters. These people's homes are in the US-controlled area and they are adamant that the shooters were US Marines.

"Bodies are lying in the streets..."

Snipers are causing not just carnage but also the paralysis of the ambulance and evacuating services. The biggest hospital after the main one was bombed is in US territory and cut off from the clinic by snipers. The ambulance has been repaired four times after bullet damage. Bodies are lying in the streets because no one can go to collect them without being shot.

Some said we were mad to come to Iraq; quite a few said we were completely insane to come to Fallujah, and now there are people telling me that getting in the back of the pick-up to go past the snipers and fetch sick and injured people is the craziest thing they have seen. I know, though, that if we don't, no one will.

One man is holding a white flag with a red crescent on it; I don't know his name. The men

we pass (i.e. the Mujaahideen) wave us on when the driver explains where we are going. The silence is ferocious in the no-man's land between the pick-up at the edge of the Mujahedin territory, which has just gone from our sight around the last corner and the Marines' line beyond the next wall; no birds, no music, no indication that anyone is still living—until a gate opens opposite and a woman comes out and points.

We edge along to a hole in the wall where we can see a car. Spent mortar shells around it. The feet are visible, crossed in the gutter. I think he is dead already. The snipers are visible too, two of them on the corner of the building. I think they can't see us so we need to let them know we are there.

"Hello", I bellow at the top of my voice. "Can you hear me?" They must. They are about 30m from us, maybe less, and it's so still you could hear the flies buzzing 50 paces. I repeat myself a few times, still without reply, so I decide to explain myself a bit more.

"We are a medical team. We want to remove this wounded man. Is it OK for us to come out and get him? Can you give us a signal that it's OK?"

I am sure they can hear me but they are still not responding. Maybe they didn't understand it all, so I say it all again. Dave yells too in his US accent. I yell again. Finally I think I hear a shout back. Not sure, I call again.

"Hello".

"Yeah."

"Can we come out and get him?"

"Yeah."

Slowly, our hands up, we go out. The black cloud that rises to greet us carries with it a hot, sour smell. Solidified, his legs are heavy. I leave them to Rana and

(Continued on page 9)

THEY STRIKE FEAR IN US FORCES

***"A few hours later, the gunmen reminded Baghdad that they could still strike, irrespective of US-imposed exclusion zones. A loud explosion echoed over the rooftops when a mortar bomb landed outside the Sheraton Hotel. Scores of US soldiers piled into their armoured cars near Firdus Square and set off to hunt for more men dressed in black."*—The Telegraph**

"The men dressed in black" is a sarcastic re-

mark to ridicule US forces who apprehend unarmed civilians to show that they are succeeding in their pursuit of 'terrorists'. The "men in black" are Shiah worshippers attending a Shiah festival. They are randomly arrested because the Shi'ite cleric, Sadr's men also dress in black. Paranoia has driven US forces to believe that every man dressed in black is an 'insurgent' of Sadr.

THE PREVAILING SITUATION IN IRAQ

Iraq has been ravaged by the American and British state-terrorists. Pillage, plunder and murder have reduced large areas of the country to rubble. There is no government infrastructure. The entire fabric of Iraqi life has been destroyed. Brutal acts of murder from the safety of the air fortresses and the land garrisons—from behind massive concrete barricades and in tanks, long range guns, missiles and air-strikes have and are punnelling and flattening entire residential areas. Musjids, hospitals, houses, women and children all come within the murderous and bloody assaults of the American and British terrorists. But in spite of this murder and genocide on a massive scale, the Americans and British are NOT in control of Iraq.

FORBIDDEN TERRITORY

Despite the year-long incessant and systematic destruction of the land and its people—a true holocaust—the foreign terrorists with all their technological weapons of mass destruction are not in control of any city in Iraq. In fact, they

are not in control of even their own so-called 'Green Zone'. They live behind massive concrete barricades and in garrisons unable to sleep peacefully, for the daring Mujaahideen venture right up to these barriers and launch attacks on the cowardly criminals who know only to murder and destroy from the air and from long distances with weapons of mass destruction of the worst kind.

Not a city is in their control. Large areas—almost the entire heartlands—are forbidden territory for the foreign marauders. They can venture in these Mujaahideen-controlled areas only by a planned massive military operation. Their standard tactic is to first launch sudden air strikes on densely populated areas they plan to ransack and destroy in order to demoralize the people into submission.

Civilians are indiscriminately killed in large numbers in these strikes. The next step is to set

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THE BRUTAL MASSACRE BY AMERICA- UNBIASED REPORTS BY WESTERN JOURNALISTS

(Continued from page 8)

Dave, our guide lifting under his hips. A Kalashnikov is attached by sticky blood to his hair and hand and we don't want it with us so I put my foot on it as I pick up his back. We heave him into the pick-up, the way into the clinic clears in front of them, straight up the ramp into the makeshift morgue.

We wash the blood off our hands and get in the ambulance.

There are people trapped in the other hospital who need to go to Baghdad. Siren screaming, lights flashing, we huddle on the floor of the ambulance, passports and ID cards held out the windows. We pack it with people, one with his chest taped together and a drip, one on a stretcher, legs jerking violently so I have to hold them down.

The hospital is better able to treat patients than the clinic but has not got enough of anything to sort them out properly and the only way to get them to Baghdad is on our bus, which means they have to go to the clinic. We are crammed on the floor of the ambulance in case it's shot at. Nisareen, a female doctor about my age, can't stop a few tears.

At the clinic, a doctor rushes out to meet me: "Can you go to fetch a lady? She is pregnant and she is delivering the baby soon."

Azzam is driving, Ahmed in the middle directing him, and me by the window, the visible foreigner, the passport. Something scatters across my hand, simultaneous with the crashing of a bullet through the ambulance, some plastic part dislodged, flying through the window.

We stop, turn off the siren, keep the blue light flashing, wait, eyes on the silhouettes of men in US Marine uniforms on the corners of the building. Several shots come. We duck. I can see tiny red lights whipping past the window, past my head. Some are hitting the ambulance. I start singing

What else do you do when someone's shooting at you? A tyre bursts with an enormous noise and a jerk of the vehicle.

I am outraged. We are trying to get to a woman who is giving birth without medical attention, without electricity in a city under siege, in a clearly marked ambulance. Azzam gets the ambulance into reverse, another tyre bursting as we go over the ridge in the centre of the road, the shots still coming as we flee around the corner. The wheels are scraping, burst rubber burning on the road.

The men run for a stretcher as we arrive back at the clinic and I shake my head. They spot the new bullet holes and run to see if we are OK.

"Is there any other way to get to her?" I want to know. There is no other way.

The woman is still at home in the dark giving birth alone.

We can't go out again. For one thing there is no ambulance and besides, it's dark now and that means our foreign faces can't protect the people we pick up.

Maki is the acting director of the clinic. He says he hated Saddam but now he hates the Americans more.

The sky starts exploding somewhere beyond the building opposite. Minutes later a car roars up to the clinic. I can hear him screaming before I can see that there is no skin left on his body. He is burnt from head to foot. For sure there is nothing they can do. He will die of dehydration within a few days.

Another man is pulled from the car onto a stretcher. Cluster bombs, they say.....

"The dead we cannot help," Jassim said. "I must worry about the injured."

We go again, Dave, Rana and I, this time in a pick-up. There are some sick people close to the Marines' lines who need evacuating. No one dares come out of their houses because the Marines are

on top of the buildings shooting at anything that moves.

Saad fetches us a white flag and tells us not to worry. He has checked and secured the road, no Mujahedin will fire at us; this 11 year old child, his AK-47 almost as tall as he is.

We shout again to the soldiers, hold up the flag with a red crescent sprayed onto it. Two come down from the building and Rana mutters: "Allahu Akbar. Please nobody take a shot at them."

We jump down and tell them we need to get some sick people from the houses and they want Rana to go and bring out the family from the house whose roof they are on. Thirteen women and children are still inside, in one room without food and water for the last 24 hours.

"We're going to be going through soon, clearing the houses," the senior one says.

"What does that mean, clearing the houses?"

"Going into everyone searching for weapons."

He is checking his watch, can't tell me what will start when, of course, but there are going to be air strikes in support.

"If you're going to do this you have to do it soon."

First we go down the street we were sent to. There is a man, face down, a small round red stain on his back. Again the flies have got there first. As we reach to roll him on the stretcher, Dave's hand goes through his chest, through the cavity left by the bullet that entered so neatly through his back and blew his heart out.

There is no weapon in his hand. Only when we arrive, his sons come out, crying, shouting. He was unarmed, they scream. He was unarmed. He just went out the gate and they shot him. None of them have dared come out since. No one had dared come to get his body, horrified, terrified, forced to violate the tradition of treating the body immediately.

We cover the face, carry him to the pick-up. There is nothing to cover his body with. The sick woman is helped out of the house, the little girls around her hugging cloth bags to their bodies, whispering: "Baba, baba," Daddy.

Shaking, they let us go first,

hands up, around the corner, then we usher them to the cab of the pick-up, shielding their heads so they can't see him, the cuddly fat man stiff in the back.

The people seem to pour out of the houses now in the hope we can escort them safely out of the line of fire: kids, women, men, anxiously asking us when they can all go, or only the women and children. We go to ask. The young Marine tells us that men of fighting age can't leave.

"What's fighting age?" I want to know.

He contemplates. "Anything under 45. No lower limit."

The pick-up gets back and we shovel as many onto it as we can.

The bus is going to leave, taking the injured people back to Baghdad, the man with the burns, a woman who was shot in the jaw and shoulder by a sniper, several others.

.....The way back is tense, people escaping in anything, even piled on the trailer of a tractor, lines of cars and pick-ups and buses ferrying people to the dubious sanctuary of Baghdad, men in vehicles queuing to get back into the city having brought their families to safety, either to fight or to help evacuate more people.

We stop in Abu Ghraib and swap seats, foreigners in the front, Iraqis less visible, head-scarves off so we look more Western.

On satellite television, the news says the ceasefire is holding and President George W. Bush says to the troops: "I know what we're doing in Iraq is right."

Shooting unarmed men in the back outside their family home is right? Shooting grandmothers with white flags is right? Shooting at women and children who are fleeing their homes is right? Firing at ambulances is right?

Well, I know too now. I know what it looks like when you brutalise people so much that they have nothing left to lose. I know what it looks like when an operation is done without anaesthetic because the hospitals are destroyed or under sniper fire.

I know what it looks like when tracer bullets are passing your head, even though you are in an ambulance. I know what it looks like when a man's chest is no longer inside him, and know what it looks like when his wife and children pour out of his house.

It's a crime and a disgrace to us all."

This commentary is adequate to portray the brutality of America.

DON'T BE ENAMoured

"Do not be enamoured by their wealth and their progeny. Verily, Allah intends to punish them (the kuffaar) with all this (worldly pomp and power) in this world, and extract their souls while they are unbelievers." (Aayat 85, Surah Taubah)

The Qur'aan forbids the Muslimeen to look on with awe at the worldly progress, pomp and technological power which Allah Ta'ala has granted them for a short time in this temporary life. Their power is in materialism. Our power is in spiritualism.

AFGHANISTAN

(Continued from page 7)

The American soldiers remain far in the background. While they scheme the plans and issue the commands to their Afghan foot-soldiers (the Northern Alliance) and the Pakistani army, they hardly participate in the actual fighting.

The fighting is done by America's proxies, the Northern Alliance and the Pakistani military. When the operation has practically ended, and there is no longer the threat of Mujahideen attack, come the

American cowboys as if they are great heroes having achieved a great victory in battle.

In Afghanistan the Americans are forced to talk terms with the Afghan warlords. Two years after its invasion, America has not as yet gained control of the country. The Taliban government has been dismantled, anarchy and chaos have returned, and a multitude of warlords control their own areas.

Airstrikes to level civilian areas and villages of peasants, and striking villages with long range weapons and missiles are not the ingredients of control of a country. Alhamdulillah! The Resistance continues and is gaining momentum. All Muslims have the obligation of making dua. They should not forget their brethren and think of them only when the western media highlights a flashpoint.

WHO ARE THE REAL TERRORISTS IN IRAQ?

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Four years ago, I travelled the length of Iraq, from the hills where St. Mathew is buried in the Kurdish north to the heartland of Mesopotamia, and Baghdad, and the Shia south.

I have seldom felt as safe in any country. Once in the Edwardian colonnade of Baghdad's book market, a young man shouted something at me about the hardship his family had been forced to endure under the embargo imposed by the US and Britain.

What happened next was typical of Iraqis: a passerby calmed the man, putting his arm around his shoulder, while another was quickly at my side. "Forgive him," he said reassuringly. "We do not connect the people of the West with the actions of their governments. You are welcome."

At one of the melancholy evening auctions where Iraqis come to sell their most intimate possessions out of urgent need, a woman with two plants watched as their push-chairs went for pennies, and a man who had collected doves since he was 15 came with his last bird and its cage; and yet people said to me: "You are welcome."

Such grace and dignity were often expressed by those Iraqi exiles who loathed Saddam Hussein and opposed both the economic siege and the Anglo-American assault on their homeland; thousands of these anti-Saddamites marched against the war in London last year, to the chagrin of the warmongers, who never understood the dichotomy of their principled stand.

Were I to undertake the same journey in Iraq today, I might not return alive. Foreign terrorists have ensured that. With the most lethal weapons that billions of dollars can buy, and the threats of their cowboy generals and the panic-stricken brutality of their foot-soldiers, more than 120,000 of these invaders have ripped up the fabric of a nation that survived the years of Saddam Hussein just as they oversaw the destruction of its artefacts.

They have brought to Iraq a daily, murderous violence which surpassed that of a tyrant who

never promised a fake democracy. Amnesty International reports that US-led forces have "shot Iraqis dead during demonstrations, tortured and ill-treated prisoners, arrested people arbitrarily and held them indefinitely, demolished houses in acts of revenge and collective punishment."

In Fallujah, US Marines described as "tremendously precise" by their psychopathic spokesman, slaughtered up to 600 people, according to hospital directors. They did it with aircraft and heavy weapons deployed in urban areas, in revenge for the killing of four US Mercenaries. Many of the dead of Fallujah were women, children and the elderly.

Only the Arab TV networks, notably al-Jazeera, have shown the true scale of the crime, while the Anglo-American media continue to channel and amplify the lies of the White House and Downing Street.

"Writing exclusively for the London Observer before a make-or-break summit with President George Bush this week", sang Britain's former premier liberal newspaper on 11 April, "Tony Blair gave full backing to US tactics in Iraq... saying that the government would not flinch from its 'historic struggle' despite the efforts of the 'insurgents and terrorists'."

That this "exclusive" was not presented as parody shows that the propaganda engine that drove the lies of Blair and Bush on weapons of mass destruction and al-Qaeda links for almost two years is still in service.

According to Amnesty International, the foreign invaders have killed approximately 11000 Iraqi civilians. The overall figure may be as high as 55000.

On BBC news bulletins and *Newsnight*, Blair's "terrorists" are still currency, a term that is never applied to the principal source and cause of the terrorism, the foreign invaders, who have now killed at least 11,000 civilians, according to Amnesty and others. The overall figure, including conscripts, may be as high as 55,000.

That a nationalist uprising has been underway in Iraq for more than a year, uniting at least 15 major groups, most of them opposed to the old regime, has been suppressed in a mendacious lexicon invented in Washington and London and reported increasingly, CNN-style.

"Remnants" and "tribalists" and "fundamentalists" dominate, while Iraq is denied the legacy of a history in which much of the modern world is rooted. The "first-anniversary story" about a laughable poll claiming that half of all Iraqis felt better off now under the occupation is a case in point. Most of the Western media, notably the BBC, swallowed it whole.

Even now as the uprising spreads, there is only cryptic gesturing at the obvious: that this is a war of national liberation and that the enemy is "us". The pro-invasion Sydney Morning Herald is typical. Having expressed "surprise" at the uniting of Shias and Sunnis, the paper's Baghdad correspondent described "how GL bullies are making enemies of their Iraqi friends" and how he had been threatened by Americans.

"I'll take you out quick as a flash, mother*****! A soldier told the reporter. That this was merely a glimpse of the terror and humiliation that Iraqis have to suffer every day in their own country was never spelt out; yet this newspaper, typical of so many in Europe and the US, has published image after unctuous image of mournful US soldiers, inviting sympathy for an invader who has "taken out" thousands of innocent men, women and children.

What we do routinely in the imperial West, wrote Richard Falk, professor of international relations at Princeton, is propagate "through a self-righteous one-way moral/legal screen positive images of Western values and innocence that are threatened, validating a campaign of unrestricted violence."

Thus western state terrorism is erased, and a tenet of Western journalism is to excuse or minimise "our" culpability, however atrocious. Our dead are counted; theirs are not. Our aims are worthy, theirs are not.

This is an old story: there have been many of what Blair calls "historic struggles" waged against "insurgents and terrorists". Take Kenya in the 1950's. The approved version is still cherished in the West—first popularised in the press, then in fiction and movies: and like Iraq, it is a lie.

"The task to which we have set our minds", declared the governor of Kenya in 1955, "is to civilise a great mass of human beings who are in a very primitive moral and social state." The slaughter of thousands of nationalists, who were never called nationalists, was British government policy. The myth of the Kenyan uprising was that the Mau Mau brought "demonic terror" to the heroic white

settlers.

In fact the Mau Mau killed just 32 Europeans, compared with the estimated 10,000 Kenyans killed by the British, who ran concentration camps where conditions were so harsh that 402 inmates died in a month.

Torture, flogging and abuse of women and children were commonplace. "The special prisons" wrote the imperial historian V.G. Kiernan, "were probably as bad as any similar Nazi or Japanese establishments."

None of this was reported. The "demonic terror" was all one way: black against white. The racist message was unmistakable.

It was the same in Vietnam. In 1969, the discovery of a US massacre in the village of My Lai was described by Newsweek as "An American tragedy", not a Vietnamese one. In fact, there were many massacres like My Lai, and almost none of them were reported at the time.

The real tragedy of soldiers policing a colonial occupation is also suppressed. More than 58,000 US soldiers were killed in Vietnam. The same number, according to a veterans' study, killed themselves on their return home.

Dr. Doug Rokke, director of US army depleted-uranium project following the 1991 Gulf invasion, estimates that more than 10,000 US troops have since died as a result: many from contamination illness. When I asked him how many Iraqis had died, he raised his eyes and shook his head.

"Solid uranium was used in shells," he said. "Tens of thousands of Iraqis — men, women and children — were contaminated. Right through the 1990's, at international symposiums, I watched Iraqi officials approach their counterparts from the

"Solid uranium was used in shells. Tens of thousands of Iraqis — men, women and children — were contaminated".

Pentagon and the Ministry of Defence and ask, plead, for help with decontamination. The Iraqis didn't use uranium; it was not their weapon. I watched them put their case, describing the deaths and the horrific deformities and I watched them rebuffed. It was pathetic."

During last year's invasion, both US and British forces again used uranium-tipped shells, leaving whole areas so "hot" with radiation that only military survey teams in full protective clothing could approach them. No warning or medical help is given to Iraqi civilians: thousands of children play in these zones.

The "coalition" has refused to allow the International Atomic Agency to send experts to assess what Rokke

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WHO ARE THE REAL TERRORISTS IN IRAQ?

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low the International Atomic Agency to send experts to assess what Rokke calls "a catastrophe".

When will this be properly reported by those meant to keep the record straight? When will CNN and the BBC investigate the conditions of some 10,000 Iraqis held without charge, many of them tortured, in US concentration camps inside Iraq, and the corralling, with razor wire of entire Iraqi villages.

When will they stop referring to "the handover of Iraqi sovereignty" on June 30, although there will be no such handover? The new regime will be stooges, with each ministry controlled by US officials and a stooge army and stooge police force run by Americans.

A Saddamite law prohibiting trade unions for public sector workers will stay in force. Leading members of Saddam's infamous secret police, the Mukhabarat, will run "state security", directed by the CIA. The US military will have the same "status of forces" agreement that they impose on the host nations of their 750 bases around the world, which in effect leaves them in charge.

Iraq will be a US colony like Haiti. When will journalists have the professional courage to report the pivotal role Israel has played in the grand colonial design for the Middle East?

A few weeks ago, Rick Mercier, a young columnist for the Free-lance Star, a small paper in Virginia, did what no other journalist has done this past year. He apologized to his readers for the travesty of the reporting of events leading to

the attack on Iraq.

"Sorry we let unsubstantiated claims drive our coverage", he wrote.

"Sorry we let a band of self-serving Iraqi defectors make fools of us. Sorry we fell for Colin Powell's performance at the United Nations... Maybe we'll do a better job next war."

Well done, Rick Mercier. But listen to the silence of your colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic. It is said that British officers in Iraq now describe the "tactics" of their US comrades as "appalling".

No, the very nature of a colonial occupation is appalling, as the families of 13 Iraqis killed by British soldiers, who are taking the British government to court, will agree.

If the British military brass understand an inkling of their own colonial past, not least the bloody British retreat from Iraq 83 years ago, they will whisper in the ear of the little Wellington-cum-Palmerston in 10 Downing Street: "Get out now, before we are thrown out."

THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH TERRORISTS

Everyone does understand who the true and real terrorists are. The terrorists can never be those who valiantly fight an invading and a brutal enemy which never inherited a conscience from anyone. They who commit the horrendous massacres, the destruction of homes and families therein, the cowardly air strikes before they dare enter a populated zone for their so-called searches for weapons, are the real terrorists. In Iraq they are American and British.

The 11 year old boy with his AK rifle fighting the marauding barbarians who cowardly shoots at his grandmother, mother and sisters, is a Mujahid. He is not a terrorist. He fights the American and British terrorists in spite of the overwhelming odds of lethal weapons and brutal, inhuman creatures who have the external appearances of human beings.

ALLAH'S ATHAAB

Muslims should take lesson. They should not lose themselves in wailing and futile criticism irrespective of the justification for such castigation of the terrorists. We must accept that this catastrophe which has descended on the Iraqi Muslims, is Allah's Athaab. The causes must be remedied. The remedy is *Istighfaar*, *Ibaadat*

ilallaah, *Taa-at* and *Ibaadat*. Only then will Muslims succeed in eliminating the vermin which is defiling the honour of Muslims and their lands.

When even non-Muslims such as some unbiased and honest journalists, report the commission of the horrors, massacres, torture and atrocities perpetrated by the American and British terrorists who are plundering, pillaging and raping Iraq, then the extent of the catastrophe can be imagined and understood.

When Bani Israaeel complained and cried to Hadhrat Musaa (alayhis salaam) on account of the horrendous torture and persecution of Fir'oun, their Nabi exhorted them: "*Seek aid from Allah and persevere. Verily, the earth belongs to Allah. He bestows its sovereignty to whomever among His servants He wishes. And, the ultimate victory is for the Muttaqeen.*"

"O my people! Seek forgiveness from your Rabb. Then turn to Him....."

Allah Ta'ala states in the Qur'aan Majeed:

"If He aids you, then there is no one who can overwhelm you, And, if He withdraws His aid from you, then who is there besides Him who can help you?"

THE MADRID BOMBINGS IN THE LIGHT OF THE SHARIAH

(Reproduced from Sunday Tribune 11th April 04)

Since it appears that Muslims were responsible for the recent bombings in Spain, a need has developed to explain these events in the light of the Shariah of Islam so that all confusion and misgiving are eliminated. For a proper understanding of this event and the Islamic Ruling for it, it is necessary to first understand the purpose of Islam. Why did Allah Ta'ala dispatch Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) to earth with His Final Message, the Shariah of Islam?

SALVATION

There is no gainsaying the purpose of Islam is the salvation (*Najaat*) of mankind in the Aakhirah. Islam came to extricate mankind from the morass of kufr, shirk, immorality and debauchery. It came to guarantee the everlasting success and pleasure of the Hereafter for Allah's *makhlooq* (creation—man and jinn). There is no other goal of Islam other than this one aim.

This goal is achieved by means of *Da'wat* and *Tableegh* — propagating Islam to mankind. Entire mankind is the target of Islamic *Da'wat* and *Tableegh*. The ancestors of the more than a billion Muslims in the world were all Mushrikeen and kuffaar. Islam first came to the Arab nation. The Sahaabah carried the Message of this Deen to every corner of the world.

THE SWORD

The claim that the people of the world were forcibly converted to Islam is a historical fallacy and a gigantic slander. Undoubtedly, the Sword of Jihad served to conquer the lands of the kuffaar thereby clearing the pathway for *Da'wat* and *Tableegh*. The aim of gaining political domination of the lands of the kuffaar was never territorial or any other mundane considerations. The aim was solely to establish a free and friendly environment where *Da'wat* and *Tableegh* would find free play with no enemy forces to hinder its progress.

JIHAD

Jihad while essential and a fundamental requirement of Islam, is not an end in itself. It is a means for the acquisition of the higher and nobler aim of propagating the Deen to the creation of Allah Ta'ala so that all people could be saved from the everlasting damnation of the Hereafter.

Jihad being the means for a great and noble

achievement and goal, is therefore, a principled institution of Islam. It is an obligation regulated by numerous laws. It is not an act of anarchy and revenge perpetrated to brutalise mankind. Brutalisation of Allah's creatures is an integral part of the character of the kuffaar. We observe its conspicuous manifestation today in Iraq, Palestine, Chechniya, Afghanistan and Kashmir. In the world of today, Americans, Britishers, Jews and Hindus, excel in the perpetration of state-terrorism—legalized terrorism—horror, torture and brutality. Every day volumes of testimony pile up all over the globe to damn these kuffaar who excel in savagery against mankind in general and against Muslims in particular.

COMPULSION

Responding to the enemy claim that Islam was spread by the sword, the Qur'aan Majeed says: "*There is no compulsion in Deen.*" This is a specific negation of forcible conversion of non-Muslims to Islam. This aayat does not mean that the Islamic state may not utilize coercive power to compel Muslims to comply with the Shariah. The relevant Qur'aanic verse simply means that non-Muslims may not be converted by force because the repository of *Imaan* is the heart, and this receptacle of Belief can never be converted by force. Only propagation, persuasion and display of sterling character can win over the hearts.

THE SAHAABAH

The very first group of *Muballigheen* who carried aloft the Message of Islam was the Sahaabah who had converted entire nations by active *Tableegh*,

i.e. by means of their wonderful character. The paramount importance of *Imaan* is such that right in the battlefield if a defeated enemy who is on the verge of being slain by a Muslim blurts out the Kalimah — *La-ilaha il lallaah*— then it is haraam to slay him. His verbal proclamation of the Islamic formula of *Imaan* guarantees the safety of his life, honour and property even if he had uttered it merely to save his life while his heart remains filled with kufr.

SANCTITY

Human life is sacred. Molesting and harming the creatures—even the animals and inanimate objects—without valid Shar'i reason are evil acts strictly proscribed by Islam. The sanctity of human life is adequately borne out by the command of Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) to the Sahaabah to refrain

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THE MADRID BOMBINGS IN THE LIGHT OF THE SHARIAH

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from killing women, children and all civilians who are not active participants in the war against the Muslim army waging Jihad.

KUFR

There is no greater crime in Islam than kufr and shirk. Yet, the Shariah prohibits the killing of mushrik and kuffaar priests and monks who are engaged in their *baatil* acts of worship.

Islam prohibits a scorched earth policy. Even trees and crops may not unnecessarily be destroyed in Jihad campaigns.

THE ATTITUDE

If the goal of Islam and its institution of Jihad have been properly understood, then it will not be difficult to understand what the attitude of Muslims should be in Jihad and when dealing with non-Muslims. The very first objective of Jihad is *Da'wat and Tableegh*. If the audience or the targets of Islamic propagation are alienated by implanting hatred for Muslims in their hearts, the avenue of *Da'wat and Tableegh* will be sealed. How can a person who has been brutalized be asked to accept the religion of the brutaliser? What will be the response and the attitude of such non-Muslims to *Da'wat and Tableegh* if they have gained the impression that Islam advocates their extermination and allows horrendous methods of eliminating even women and children?

If the Sahaabah had adopted the tactic of massacre and brutality, would we today have been Muslims? Our ancestors were Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and mushriks of a variety of persuasions. But today, we are proud to be Believers in Tauheed.

If in the minds of the Spanish non-Muslims the idea is solidified that Islam advocates what had transpired in Madrid recently, is it possible to invite them to Islam and their everlasting *Najaat* in the *Aakhirah*?

INJUSTICES

Regardless of the injustices, the cruelty, the piracy and brutality which Christians (Americans and Britishers) are perpetrating and regardless of their conspiracy to eliminate Islam, we, the Torch-Bearers of true civilization and the Standard-Bearers of Tauheed and Hidaayah for Allah's Makhloq are not allowed by the Shariah to descend to the inhuman level to which the Madrid bombers had sunk to.

JUSTICE

Is it justice and an act of holy jihad to mutilate, maim and kill Spanish civilians—men, women and children—as a punishment for the crimes committed by Bush and Blair? By what Islamic criterion can any Muslim justify this horri-

ble misdeed? Furthermore, the majority of the Spanish non-Muslims had demonstrated against the invasion of Iraq. They had opposed their government which had supported the brutality in Iraq. The very ones who had opposed the American invasion have been dealt with mercilessly by some Muslims who do not have the faintest idea of the Islamic concept of Jihad.

Millions of non-Muslims, all over the world, even in America and Britain, had marched in demonstrations in opposition to the invasion. Innumerable non-Muslims in all non-Muslim countries are opposed to the murderous policies and criminal activities of Bush and Blair. What law now calls for meting out brutal treatment to such people? It can never be Islamic law—never the Shariah of Islam.

ANARCHY

What had transpired in Spain—the Madrid bombings and murders—are *Haram*, cruel and savage in the extreme, be the perpetrators Muslims. Muslims who commit such acts are westernized Muslims who have no understanding of Islam and its goals. They have inherited the attitude of barbarism from the west. Islam never teaches such inhumanity. Islam is a spiritual and a celestial culture embodying all the noble qualities. The atrocities which so-called westernized 'mujahideen' perpetrate in the name of Islam are never part of Islamic Jihad. Those who are guilty of such horrendous misdeeds are the followers of Bush and Blair and their institution of horrible torture, viz., the CIA.

SABR

When Muslims lack the power to face and defeat the enemy on the battlefield of Jihad, they have to adopt *Sabr*, morally reform themselves and develop spiritually until the *Nusrat* of Allah Ta'ala arrives. The time will then be ripe for destroying the enemies on the battlefield to clear the path for the propagation of the Message of Allah Ta'ala in the endeavour to present Salvation in the Hereafter to Allah's creatures.

Muslims should remember that torture and brutality should be left to Bush and Blair. Muslims are not allowed by Islam to vie with butchers in their acts of butchery in which they murder tens of thousands of women and children in the most horrendous and cowardly way as is evidenced on a daily basis in Iraq and Palestine.

PALESTINE

SHAIKH YAASEEN, RANTISSI AND THE WOMANISH OUTCRY

The *shahaadat* (martyrdom) of Shaikh Yaaseen and his successor Rantissi, is an honourable and a natural consequence of Jihad. The Mujahid ventures into the battle-

field either for victory or martyrdom. If he falls at the altar of *Shahaadat*, there is nothing but accolades and Jannat for him. What is all the outcry about? Palestinians, even women and children are slaughtered in large numbers by the Israeli butchers on a regular basis. Just as they went and departed from this earthly realm, so too has Shaikh Yaaseen and Rantissi departed to an infinitely better place, Insha'Allah.

However, the outcry and reviling of the enemy and making empty threats of the magnitude of a proposed revenge, are womanish tactics devoid of substance. If the Mujahideen possess the ability, they should demonstrate it on the battlefield, not make womanish noises when they fall in action to gain martyrdom. If they lack the power to punish the enemy adequately—which unfortunately they do presently lack—they should make *Sabr*, repent and seek Allah's aid through the avenue of obedience and the Sunnah.

Do Muslims in general, and Palestinians in particular, expect Israel to act in any way other than what it has demonstrated? Was its deed unexpected? There is a war of a half century in progress in Palestine. What has happened is therefore entirely expected. Futile outcries and ranting like women serve to make a greater mockery of those who claim that they are Mujahideen.

THE RESPONSE

The response for the atrocities committed by the Yahood is not the isolated act of bombing a bus of civilians. Islam teaches only one response—to face, fight and destroy the army of the enemy in active Jihad on the battlefield. The argument that this is not possible due to American support for Israel is palpably stupid, baseless and smacks of kufr.

It is an argument which presupposes impotency for Allah Ta'ala—*Nauthubillaah*! If we truly believe that Allah Azza Wa Jal is All-Powerful and that His Promises in the Qur'aan are true, then we should examine ourselves and do some deep deep soul-searching to fathom and understand the cause for the withdrawal of Allah's support and aid from the Ummah of this day.

What has rendered the Ummah of more than 60 countries so impotent that Muslims lay prostrate at the feet of 2 million Yahood women governing the suburb they have named Israel?

"We sent against you such of our servants who were powerful in war. They invaded (your) cities. they disfigured your faces.... they penetrated the Masjid (Al-Aqsa).... and they utterly destroyed everything they overran".

THE PREVAILING SITUATION IN IRAQ

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up checkpoints and barricades at a safe distance from the pummelled area/suburb. The place is reduced to rubble. Few people remain. The fighters have largely withdrawn to areas they hold. Women and children remain and cower in partly destroyed homes. Corpses are lying all around the show. The murder has not yet ceased. The initial airstrikes were to soften up the people and pave the way for the entry of the cowardly foreign terrorists to complete the horrendous process of destruction.

American/British terrorists take up positions on high places from which they snipe at any person moving from the homes, be it old women or children. They have taken up vantage positions to prevent anyone from entering or exiting from the ravaged area. Then follow the next air assault utterly destroying the place, reducing it to rubble with more deaths of civilians.

When they have made sure that it is entirely safe to move into the rubble area, these 'brave warriors' of murder and plunder enter as 'victors' to finish off their murderous mission on the remnants of the civilians who have managed to escape.

This is their limits of control—controlling rubble and areas they have leveled out by brutality. They dare not venture further into Mujahideen-controlled areas without planning a massive operation.

RESISTANCE

The daily Mujahideen attacks made directly on the enemy in spite of the barricades and all, the large no-go areas where Americans and British may not dare to venture, the call of foreign governments for their work forces to leave the country, the uprisings all over the country by both Sunnis and Shi'ahs, the non-existence of a government despite the huge American and British mercenary/terrorist force with their coalition of stooge nations, the destruction of hospitals, Mosques, homes and civilians on a regular basis, and the constant Mujahideen attacks on police stations and other terrorist installations, all bear loud and clear evidence for the extent of the Mujahideen resistance and the lack of American/British control.

CEASEFIRE

The ceasefire which the illegitimate occupying American force has brokered is loud and conspicuous evidence for the lack of control of the foreign invaders. It is clear evidence that the Iraqi fighters are in control of large areas where the Americans and British have no normal access, and no control thus necessitating a ceasefire with a handful of so-called "remnants" of Saddam's Baathist Party.

SIEGE

The invaders and their stooge 'democratic government' are living in a state of siege behind gigantic concrete barriers, constantly in fear of being attacked. What type of 'democracy' does America intend to award to its handful of picked puppets of June 30? June 30 will come and go, and the invaders and their puppets will know no peace and experience no safety. Who will be able to control an entire land on fire?

GRATITUDE

Muslims of the world can and should offer gratitude to Allah Ta'ala for at least this one bounty in the midst of His Punishment on us disobedient servants. In spite of all the severe punishment the Iraqi Muslims are suffering, Allah Ta'ala has not given control to the foreign terrorists nor has He given them any peace whatsoever since the day they invaded Iraq.